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SEP 24 1956

Mr. H. L. Hibbard
Lockheed Aircraft Corporation
Missile Systems Division
7701 Woodley Avenue
Van Nuys, California

Dear Mr. Hibbard:

Within a few days the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation will receive a request for proposal from the Air Force for the development of WS 117L as described in the Western Development Division Plan WS 117L. This program has been placed very high in relative importance within the framework of the defense efforts of the nation.

The earliest possible warning of a Soviet intention to attack is a vital requirement for the defense of the United States. This system can provide, at a reasonably early date, surveillance of the whole Soviet complex. The use of varied sensing devices planned for the system should reveal Soviet preparations for attack well in advance of the event. Of equal importance, the operational system will provide accurate target information necessary for effective counterattack, and as a by-product, provide a forceful deterrent to the initiation of hostilities.

This system is presently assigned a 1A priority and a 1-6 precedence rating.

Sincerely,

O. J. RITLAND
Colonel, USAF
Vice Commander

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